

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

causing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25 % by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1 so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

2. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said chemical equivalent ratio is within a range of from 1 to 3.

3. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the causing is carried out at a temperature ranging from 0 to 60°C.

4. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of hydroxide, oxide and carbonate of metal.

5. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said metal is at least one selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline-earth metal.

6. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium oxide, sodium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, potassium oxide, potassium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium oxide, lithium carbonate, rubidium hydroxide, rubidium oxide, rubidium carbonate, cesium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, strontium hydroxide, and barium hydroxide.

7. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said basic aqueous solution of said basic substance has a concentration ranging from 0.001 to 20 % by weight.

8. (Previously Presented) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25 % by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, and a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

9. (Previously Presented) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25 % by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, and a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of the basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1;

forming a reaction system in which inorganic acid radical is substantially absent; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

causing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing less than about 1 % by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1 at a temperature ranging from 0 to 60°C, so as to obtain fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether which substantially does not contain 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol.

13. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said chemical equivalent ratio is within a range of from 1 to 3.

14. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of hydroxide, oxide and carbonate of metal.

15. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said metal is at least one selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline-earth metal.

16. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium oxide, sodium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, potassium oxide, potassium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium oxide, lithium carbonate, rubidium hydroxide, rubidium oxide, rubidium carbonate, cesium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, strontium hydroxide, and barium hydroxide.

17. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said basic aqueous solution of said basic substance has a concentration ranging from 0.001 to 20 % by weight.

18. (New) A process according to Claim 12, wherein inorganic acid radicals are substantially removed from fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether before 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether is contacted with said basic aqueous solution.